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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Thirty-second session
Vienna, 6-17 February 1995

PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Statement by the Chairman.

3. General exchange of views.

4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system.

5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, inter alia, applications for developing countries.

7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

8. Space debris.

9. Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.

10. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.

11. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine.

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*Items 4 to 8 should be given priority in accordance with paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 49/34 of 9 December 1994.

12. Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme.

13. Matters relating to planetary exploration.

14. Matters relating to astronomy.

15. The theme fixed for special attention at the 1995 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Application of space technology for education, with particular emphasis on its use in developing countries."

16. Other matters.

17. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

ANNOTATIONS

Items 1, 2 and 3. Adoption of the agenda

Statement by the Chairman

General exchange of views

1. Following the adoption of the agenda by the Subcommittee, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Subcommittee which have taken place since its thirty-first session. After the Chairman's statement, the Subcommittee will organize a schedule of work (the provisional schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present provisional agenda).

2. The general exchange of views will start during the morning meeting.

Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

3. The General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/34, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

(a) Report of the Expert on Space Applications

4. The views of the Subcommittee regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1993-1995 are set out in paragraphs 23 to 33 of its report (A/AC.105/571). The views of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the report of the Subcommittee on this item are reflected in paragraphs 33 to 47 of the report of the Committee.[1] The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of resolution 49/34, endorsed the Programme for 1995, proposed to the Committee by the Expert (see A/AC.105/555, sections I and III).

5. The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert covering the implementation of the Programme on Space Applications during 1994 and 1995, as well as the activities proposed for 1996 (A/AC.105/595). The report will also cover arrangements made by the Secretariat with other organs,

bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to use available resources and secure additional financial support for the Programme, as requested in paragraph 19 (c) of the report of the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its sixth session (A/AC.105/513, annex II). The report of the Expert will also provide the Subcommittee with an update on the Centres for Space Science and Technology Education.

6. In addition, the Subcommittee will have before it reports on the following training courses, conferences and workshops that were held in 1994: Fourth United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on Basic Space Science, hosted by the Government of Egypt and held at Cairo, from 27 June to 1 July (A/AC.105/580); Fourth United Nations Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, organized in cooperation with the Government of Sweden and held at Stockholm and Kiruna, from 2 May to 10 June (A/AC.105/581); United Nations Workshop on enhancing social, economic and environmental security through space technology, hosted by the Government of Austria and held at Graz, from 12 to 15 September (A/AC.105/586); United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on microwave remote sensing applications, hosted by the Government of China and held at Beijing, from 14 to 18 September (A/AC.105/588); United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Symposium on benefits of space technology for the developing world: from economic growth to environmental protection, hosted by the Government of Israel and held at Jerusalem, from 6 to 9 October (A/AC.105/589); United Nations/European Space Agency Training Course for Latin American and Caribbean countries on the monitoring of natural resources, renewable energy and environment using data from the ERS-1 Satellite and held at Frascati, from 18 to 29 April (A/AC.105/594); and United Nations/European Space Agency Training course on microwave remote sensing applications and Workshop on Global Change activities in Latin America and the Caribbean organized in cooperation with the Government of Peru and held at Lima, from 3 to 14 October (A/AC.105/596).

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

7. The sixteenth Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities was held at Vienna from 3 to 5 October 1994. The report of that Meeting was issued in document A/AC.105/582. The report on coordination is contained in the document entitled "Coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programmes of work for 1995 and 1996 and future years" (A/AC.105/587).

Item 5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

8. The General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/34 endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

9. The views of the Subcommittee regarding the item were provided in paragraphs 18 to 44 of its report (A/AC.105/571). The views of the Committee on the report of the Subcommittee on the item are contained in paragraphs 27 to 54 of the report of the Committee.[1]

10. Attention is also drawn to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) (A/49/280) and to the report of the Expert on Space Applications concerning the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/595).

11. The General Assembly, in paragraph 15 of resolution 49/34 endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations

of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be reconvened by the Subcommittee at its thirty-second session.

12. The General Assembly, in paragraph 16 of resolution 49/34, also endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole as endorsed by the Committee and as contained in paragraphs 6 to 22 of the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/571, annex II). In response to the requests in paragraphs 10 and 15 of the report of the Working Group, the Subcommittee will have before it document A/AC.105/592, which will contain information on national and international space activities submitted by Member States, including information on space activities that were or could be the subject of greater international cooperation, information on the resources and technological capabilities of States in space activities and information on the capabilities of States in the areas of education, training, research and fellowship opportunities for the promotion of cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. A number of reports from international organizations with space-related activities will be before the Subcommittee, including information concerning space activities that were or could be the subject of greater international cooperation, in response to the request in paragraph 11.

13. The Subcommittee will have before it the following technical studies which were requested by the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/571, annex II, para. 17): "Global Change-Participation of the developing countries and possibilities to enhance it" (A/AC.105/590, annex); and "Satellite-based radio broadcasting services" (A/AC.105/591, annex).

14. In considering agenda item 5, the Subcommittee should note that, in paragraph 14 of resolution 49/34, the General Assembly stated that it is particularly urgent to implement the following recommendations:

(a) All countries should have the opportunity to use the techniques resulting from medical studies in space;

(b) Data banks at the national and regional levels should be strengthened and expanded and an international space information service should be established to function as a centre of coordination;

(c) The United Nations should support the creation of adequate training centres at the regional level, linked, whenever possible, to institutions implementing space programmes; necessary funding for the development of such centres should be made available through financial institutions;

(d) The United Nations should organize a fellowship programme through which selected graduates or postgraduates from developing countries should get in-depth, long-term exposure to space technology or applications; it is also desirable to encourage the availability of opportunities for such exposure on other bilateral and multilateral bases outside the United Nations system.

Item 6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, inter alia, applications for developing countries

15. The General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/34, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

Item 7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

16. The General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/34, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

17. The General Assembly, in resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992, adopted the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, as recommended by the Committee in its report.[2]

18. The General Assembly also decided, in paragraph 17 of resolution 49/34, and in accordance with principle 11 of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space at its current session. In accordance with the recommendation of the Subcommittee at its thirty-first session (A/AC.105/571, para. 62), the time allocated to the topic in both the Subcommittee and the Working Group has been adjusted taking into consideration that no initiative for a revision of the principles has been taken so far (see the annex to the present provisional agenda for the provisional schedule of work for the Working Group). The Subcommittee will have before it a number of documents submitted by Member States to the Secretary-General regarding national and international research concerning the safety of nuclear-powered satellites in response to the General Assembly's invitation contained in paragraph 17 of the same resolution.

Item 8. Space debris

19. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of resolution 49/34, welcomed the decision of the Committee to add a new item, entitled "Space debris", to the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, beginning at its last session.

20. The General Assembly, in paragraph 12 of resolution 49/34, endorsed the agreement of the Committee that, under this item, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should focus its attention on the acquisition and understanding of data on the characteristics of the space debris environment, and that it should, at its current session, develop a continuing, deliberate, specific multi-year plan for its work on this agenda item.

21. The General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/34, also endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, at its current session, should consider this item on a priority basis.

Item 9. Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space

22. The General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/34, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 10. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

23. The General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/34, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 11. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine

24. The General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/34, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 12. Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth's environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme

25. The General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/34, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 13. Matters relating to planetary exploration

26. The General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/34, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 14. Matters relating to astronomy

27. The General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/34, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 15. The theme fixed for special attention at the 1995 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Application of space technology for education, with particular emphasis on its use in developing countries"

28. The General Assembly, in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/34, endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee, which had been endorsed by the Committee, that the theme fixed for the special attention of the Subcommittee at its current session should be "Application of space technology for education, with particular emphasis on its use in developing countries".

29. In accordance with the same resolution, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), in liaison with Member States, have been invited to arrange a symposium on this theme, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the session, at the end of the meetings of the Subcommittee, to complement its discussions (see note a/ of the annex to the present provisional agenda). A detailed programme of the symposium will be issued in due course.

Item 16. Other matters

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

30. The General Assembly, in paragraph 25 of resolution 49/34, noted that pursuant to its request, contained in paragraph 22 of resolution 48/39, the Committee, at its thirty-seventh session, had continued discussions on the possibility of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space with a view to promoting an early conclusion on the matter by the Committee.

31. The General Assembly, in paragraph 26 of resolution 49/34, agreed with the Committee that a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space could be convened in the near future and also agreed that, prior to recommending a date for the Conference, there should be a consensus recommendation on the agenda, venue and funding of the Conference.

32. The General Assembly, in paragraph 27 of resolution 49/34, recommended that at its current session, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee conduct a thorough analysis and define an agenda for such a conference and agreed that the Subcommittee should discuss a broad range of themes and subjects that could be refined into a sharply focused and detailed agenda and should continue its examination of other means of achieving the goals set for such a conference.

33. The General Assembly, in paragraph 28 of resolution 49/34, invited interested Member States to submit additional ideas and proposals for a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in time for their consideration at the thirty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and endorsed the Committee's request that the Secretariat compile a document, in time for consideration at that session of the Subcommittee, containing the various ideas regarding the agenda and organization for the conference submitted to the Committee. In response to this request, the Subcommittee will have before it a document entitled "Matters related to the possible holding of a Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space" (A/AC.105/575/Add.1).

34. The General Assembly, in paragraph 29 of resolution 49/34, further agreed that the discussions to be held by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should provide the basis for a prompt decision by the Committee on a recommendation to the General Assembly regarding the agenda, timing, funding and organization of such a conference.

(b) Space and Earth environment

35. The General Assembly, in paragraph 31 of resolution 49/34, recommended that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment.

36. The General Assembly, in paragraph 32 of the same resolution, considered that it was essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, and called for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, and that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Subcommittee. In this connection, the Subcommittee will have before it document A/AC.105/593, containing the contributions received by the Secretariat from Member States. Additional contributions that might be received by the Secretariat after the preparation of the present provisional agenda would be brought to the attention of the Subcommittee.

(c) Other reports

37. The Subcommittee will also have before it a document entitled Highlights in Space: Progress in Space Science, Technology and Applications 1994 - reports submitted by COSPAR and IAF and published as an integrated document (A/AC.105/583).

38. Additional reports may be submitted to the Subcommittee as available.

Notes

[1]Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/49/20).

[2]Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/47/20).

Annex

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF WORK*

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Monday, 6 February	Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda Item 2 - Statement by the Chairman Item 3 - General exchange of views	Item 3 - General exchange of views Item 15 - Application of space technology for education a/
Tuesday, 7 February	Item 3 - General exchange of views Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications	Item 5 - UNISPACE b/ Item 15 - Application of space technology for education a/
Wednesday, 8 February	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 5 - UNISPACE b/	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 5 - UNISPACE b/
Thursday, 9 February	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 5 - UNISPACE b/	Item 9 - Space transportation systems Item 10 - Geostationary orbit
Friday, 10 February	Item 11 - Life sciences Item 13 - Planetary exploration	Item 11 - Life sciences Item 13 - Planetary exploration
Monday, 13 February	Item 8 - Space debris Item 7 - Nuclear power sources c/	Item 8 - Space debris Item 7 - Nuclear power sources c/
Tuesday, 14 February	Item 8 - Space debris Item 7 - Nuclear power sources c/	Item 6 - Remote sensing Item 12 - Earth environment
Wednesday, 15 February	Item 6 - Remote sensing Item 12 - Earth environment	Item 5 - UNISPACE b/
Thursday, 16 February	Item 14 - Astronomy Item 16 - Other matters	Item 16 - Other matters Item 17 - Report to the Committee
Friday, 17 February	Item 17 - Report to the Committee	Item 17 - Report to the Committee

*The provisional schedule of work has been prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Subcommittee.

a/ In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/34, paragraph 13 (b) (vii), a scientific symposium on the theme "Application of space technology for education", organized by COSPAR and IAF, will be held on 6 and 7 February, after the afternoon meeting of the Subcommittee.

b/ The Working Group of the Whole, to be re-established under General Assembly resolution 49/34, paragraph 15 (see paragraph 11 of the present provisional agenda), will meet during the period allocated for agenda items 4 and 5. Arrangements will be made for informal meetings of the Working Group as required. Agenda item 16 (a) concerning a third UNISPACE will also be considered during the time allocated for agenda items 4 and 5. The Subcommittee will take up agenda items 5 and 16 (a) again on Wednesday, 15 February, to adopt the report of the Working Group.

c/ The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (see paragraph 17 of the present provisional agenda) will meet during the period allocated for agenda item 7. Arrangements will be made for informal meetings of the Working Group as required. The Subcommittee will take up agenda item 7 again on Tuesday, 14 February, to adopt the report of the Working Group.